

REMARKS

Claims 1-46 are pending in the application. Claims 1, 6, 8, 22, 30, 31 and 40 have been amended; no new matter has been added. Claims 21 and 47-50 have been cancelled.

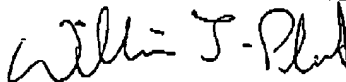
In the Claims

Applicants gratefully acknowledge indication of allowability of claims 6, 21, 30, 45, 48 and 50 if rewritten in independent form. Applicants have amended all claims to now include subject matter indicated as allowable. For example, independent claim 1 now includes allowable subject matter from previously allowed dependent claim 48 (and preceding claim 47); allowed claim 6 has been converted into an independent claim; independent claim 8 has been amended to include allowed claim 21; independent claim 22 now includes subject matter from allowed dependent claim 50 (and preceding claim 49); independent claim 31 has been amended similar to claim 1; independent claim 40 has been amended to include allowed claim 45.

In view of the foregoing amendments, all pending claims are allowable and the Applicants respectfully request a Notice of Allowance from the Examiner. Should the Examiner believe that a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this application, the undersigned can be reached at the telephone number set out below.

Respectfully submitted,

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